

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

creating and submitting an invention

5 disclosure over the intranet, the invention disclosure
being submitted by an inventor to at least one
evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention
disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments of the
10 invention disclosure by the at least one evaluator via
e-mail.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method further comprising the steps of:

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

10 transmitting a first notification message via
e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created
profile, the first group of users being within the
plurality of users and including a technical review
coordinator, the first notification message having a
15 hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

4. A method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based
5 upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

5. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

6. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under
5 government funds.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-
5 mail address.

8. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an
5 intellectual property administrator.

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of creating comprises the step of including an attachment to the invention disclosure.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein
the step of creating comprises sending a notification
message to a co-inventor, the notification message
being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the
5 invention disclosure.

12. A method for distributing an invention
disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having a
plurality of users enrolled therein with each user
having associated personnel information stored within
5 the intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

creating and submitting an invention
disclosure over the intranet, the invention disclosure
being submitted by an inventor;

10 creating a profile of the invention
disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the
invention disclosure in response to accessing
associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via
e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created
15 profile, the first group of users being within the
plurality of users and including a technical review
coordinator, the first notification message having a
hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

20 selecting at least one evaluator by the
technical review coordinator;

transmitting a second notification message
via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the second
notification message having a hyperlink to the
invention disclosure;

25 submitting evaluation comments by the at
least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention
disclosure by the technical review coordinator based
upon the evaluation comments; and

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13. A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

17. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to

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transmitting a second notification message
via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the
created profile, the second group of users being within
20 the plurality of users and including a technical review
coordinator, the second notification message having a
hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the
technical review coordinator;

25 transmitting a third notification message via
e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third
notification message having a hyperlink to the
invention disclosure;

30 submitting evaluation comments by the at
least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention
disclosure by the technical review coordinator based
upon the evaluation comments; and

35 transmitting the recommendation of the
invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second
group of users.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein
the step of transmitting the first notification message
is responsive to submission of the invention
disclosure.

24. A method according to Claim 22, wherein
the step of transmitting the second notification
message is responsive to submission of the invention
disclosure.

25. A method according to Claim 22, wherein
the profile comprises a functional manager of the
inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person,
and a contracts person if the invention was developed
5 under government funds.

26. A method according to Claim 25, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

27. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the first group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

28. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the second group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

29. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of creating comprises the step of including an attachment to the invention disclosure.

30. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

31. An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure comprising:

a first software module for creating and submitting an invention disclosure over the intranet, the invention disclosure being submitted by an inventor to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and

a second software module for transmitting evaluation comments of the invention disclosure by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

32. An intranet according to Claim 31,
wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users
enrolled therein with each user having associated
personnel information stored within the intranet, the
5 intranet further comprising:

a third software module for creating a
profile of the invention disclosure based upon a
technical area relating to the invention disclosure in
response to accessing associated personnel information
10 of the inventor; and

a fourth software module for transmitting a
first notification message via e-mail to a first group
of users based upon the created profile, the first
group of users being within the plurality of users and
15 including a technical review coordinator, the first
notification message having a hyperlink to the
invention disclosure.

33. An intranet according to Claim 32,
wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the
technical review coordinator.

34. An intranet according to Claim 33,
further comprising:

a fifth software module for submitting a
recommendation of the invention disclosure by the
5 technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation
comments; and

a sixth software module for transmitting the
recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail
to the first group of users.

35. An intranet according to Claim 32,
wherein the fourth software module for transmitting the
first notification message is responsive to submission
of the invention disclosure.

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37. An intranet according to Claim 36,
wherein the profile further comprises information
relating to the inventor including the inventor's
employee number, department number, building number,
5 phone number and e-mail address.

38. An intranet according to Claim 32,
wherein the first group of users comprises a technical
review coordinator, a contract administrator if the
invention was developed under government funds, and an
5 intellectual property administrator.

39. An intranet according to Claim 38, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

40. An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the first software module comprises instructions for including an attachment to the invention disclosure.

41. An intranet according to Claim 31,
wherein the first software module comprises
instructions for sending a notification message to a
co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted
5 via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention
disclosure.

42. An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure, the intranet having a plurality

5 a first software module for creating and submitting an invention disclosure over the intranet, the invention disclosure being submitted by an inventor;

15 a third software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

25 a fifth software module for transmitting a
second notification message via e-mail to the at least
one evaluator, the second notification message having a
hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

30 a/seventh software module for submitting a
recommendation of the invention disclosure by the
technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation
comments; and

an eighth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

a ninth software module for transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and
5 wherein the eighth software module further transmits the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

45. An intranet according to Claim 43, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

46. An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the third software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

47. An intranet according to Claim 42,
wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of
the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review
person, and a contracts person if the invention was
5 developed under government funds.

48. An intranet according to Claim 47,
wherein the profile further comprises information
relating to the inventor including the inventor's
employee number, department number, building number,
5 phone number and e-mail address.

49. An intranet according to Claim 42,
wherein the first group of users comprises a technical
review coordinator, a contract administrator if the
invention was developed under government funds, and an
5 intellectual property administrator.

50. An intranet according to Claim 42,
wherein the first software module further comprises
instructions for including an attachment to the
invention disclosure.

51. An intranet according to Claim 42,
wherein the first software module further comprises
instructions for sending a notification message to a
co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted
5 via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention
disclosure.

52. An intranet for distributing an
invention disclosure, the intranet system having a
plurality of users enrolled therein, each of the
plurality of users having associated personnel
5 information stored within the intranet, the intranet
comprising:

a first software module for creating and
submitting an invention disclosure over the intranet,
the invention disclosure being submitted by an
10 inventor;

a second software module for creating a
profile of the invention disclosure based upon a
technical area relating to the invention disclosure in
response to accessing associated personnel information
15 of the inventor;

a third software module for transmitting a
first notification message via e-mail to a first group
of users based upon the created profile, the first
group of users being within the plurality of users;

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a fourth software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

a fifth software module for selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

a sixth software module for transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; a seventh software module for submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

a seventh software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

an eighth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second group of users.

53. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the third software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

54. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the fourth software module for transmitting the second notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

55. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review

61. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:
a first data field containing data representing an invention disclosure created by an

inventor, the invention disclosure to be submitted over an intranet;

5 a second data field containing data representing an e-mail message having a hyperlink to the data representing the invention disclosure, the e-mail message to be transmitted to at least one evaluator; and

10 a third data field containing data representing comments of the at least one evaluator, the comments to be transmitted via e-mail.

62. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the
5 computer-readable medium further comprising:

10 a fourth data field containing data representing a profile of the invention disclosure, the profile being based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

15 a fifth data field containing data representing a first notification message to be transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

63. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further comprising a sixth data field containing data representing selection of the at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator.

64. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, further comprising:

a seventh data field containing data representing a recommendation of the invention disclosure submitted by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments, and

- 5 an eighth data field containing data representing an e-mail message of the recommendation of the invention disclosure to be transmitted to the first group of users.

65. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the fourth data field containing data representing the profile comprises data representing a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney,
5 a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

66. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 65, wherein the fourth data field further comprises data representing information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number,
5 department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

67. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the fifth data field containing data representing the first group of users further comprises data representing a technical review coordinator, a
5 contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

68. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 67, wherein the fifth data field further comprises data representing a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

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69. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, further comprising a fourth data field containing data representing an attachment to be included with the invention disclosure.

70. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, further comprising a fourth data field containing data representing a notification message to be transmitted to a co-inventor, the notification message to be transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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